

ANNUAL REPORT FOR
1944.

TO
THE PERSHORE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.



BY
J. J. MURRAY, M.B., D.P.H.
(District Medical Officer of Health).

TO THE PERSHORE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR, 1944.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN.

I beg to present my annual report on the health of your district for the year 1944, a very satisfactory feature of which is the low infantile mortality rate (deaths under one year per 1,000 live births) of 23. It is half that for the whole county and has improved on last year's figure of 29. In addition, there have been no maternal deaths. The number of births have risen from 243 in 1943 to 301 for this year, the birth-rate being correspondingly increased. A higher death-rate is recorded, due principally to an increased mortality among the older members of the community.

Diphtheria immunisation has continued during the year and it is estimated that approximately 80% of children between the ages of 1 - 15 years are protected as far as it is possible to do so.

From the above figures there is no evidence of any decline in the general health of the district.

I am indebted to the Sanitary Inspector (Mr. J. W. Holmes) and his staff for their assistance during the year.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

J. J. MURRAY,

Medical Officer of Health.

CHIEF STATISTICS.

<u>BIRTHS.</u>	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Legitimate.	135	135	270
Illegitimate.	16	15	31
	151	150	301

<u>STILL BIRTHS.</u>	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Legitimate.	2	2	4
Illegitimate.	-	1	1
	2	3	5

Birth-rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population.	20.7.	<u>1943.</u> 16.3.
Still Birth rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births.	16.	43.

	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
<u>DEATHS.</u>	95	96	191

Death-rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population.	13.1.	11.8.
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Deaths from Puerperal causes:

Rate per 1,000 total
(live and still) births.

Puerperal Sepsis.	nil	nil	nil
Other Puerperal causes.	nil	nil	nil
Total.	nil	nil	nil

	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Deaths of infants under one year.	2	5	7
Deaths of Legitimate infants.	1	4	5
Deaths of Illegitimate infants.	1	1	2

Death rate of infants under one year.

All infants per 1,000 live births.	23.	29.
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births.	19.	26.
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births.	64.	83.

Deaths from Cancer (all ages.)	21.	16.
Deaths from Measles (all ages.)	nil.	nil.
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	nil.	nil.
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age.)	nil.	nil.

Comparision with some of the figures for the whole country is as follows:-

	<u>England & Wales.</u> <u>1944.</u>	<u>District.</u> <u>1944.</u>	<u>District.</u> <u>1943.</u>
Birth-rate.	17.6	20.7	16.3.
Death-rate.	11.6	13.1	13.1.
Infant Mortality Rate.	46	23	29.



CAUSES OF DEATHS.

The following table gives the causes of death during 1944.

CAUSE OF DEATH.	MALES.	FEMALES.	TOTAL.
Measles.	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever.	-	-	-
Diphtheria.	1	-	1
Whooping Cough.	-	-	-
Acute Infectious Encephalitis.	-	-	-
Typhoid and Para-typhoid fevers.	-	-	-
Cerebro-Spinal fever.	-	-	-
Acute Polio-myelitis & Polio-encephalitis.	-	-	-
Influenza.	-	2	2
Syphilitic Disease.	-	1	1
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System.	5	3	8
Other forms of Tuberculosis.	2	1	3
Cancer. (total).	13	8	21
{ Cancer of Buccal cavity - oesophagus M.	2	-	2
{ uterus F.	-	-	-
{ Cancer of Stomach & Duodenum.	2	2	4
{ Cancer of Breast.	-	1	1
{ Cancer of all other sites.	9	5	14
Diabetes.	-	4	4
Intra-cranial Vascular Lesions.	18	16	34
Heart Disease.	23	29	52
Other Diseases of Circulatory System.	3	2	5
Bronchitis.	3	6	9
Pneumonia.	-	4	4
Other Respiratory Diseases.	-	-	-
Ulcer of Stomach & Duodenum.	-	-	-
Diarrhoea. (under 2 years.)	-	-	-
Appendicitis.	3	1	4
Other Digestive Diseases.	-	1	1
Nephritis.	5	7	12
Puer. & Post. Abort. Sepsis.	-	-	-
Other Maternal causes.	-	-	-
Premature Birth.	-	2	2
Con. Mal. Birth Inj. I&F. Dis.	1	1	2
Suicide.	1	-	1
Road Traffic Accidents.	4	-	4
Other Violent causes.	1	-	1
All other causes.	12	9	21
TOTALS.	95	97	192



GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

The general pooling of Hospital accommodation for infectious diseases continues and has been found to be of much help. Under this arrangement cases other than Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria are removed to outside Hospitals thus solving the problem of limited accommodation. The question of cubicle provision and hospital modernisation remains for post war consideration.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

Water Supplies.

A total of 1,819 houses (40% of the population) is supplied with piped water, the main source of which comes from springs on the Bredon Hills. A supply to the Village of Wyre is derived from gravel beds of the River Avon, serving 75 houses and about 350 persons. This is included in the first mentioned total. The Bredon supply is chlorinated. By arrangement with the Cheltenham Corporation an additional amount is furnished, the average daily supplement amounting to about 80,000 gallons. This has been of much assistance as the prolonged drought imposed a severe strain. Three hundred persons in approximately 95 houses are served by stand-pipes. This represents about 3% of the district population. There is no question of any plumbo-solvent tendency, and the samples taken monthly have been satisfactory from both the chemical and bacteriological stand points.

About 2,330 dwellings, housing 60% of the population, are solely dependent upon wells, many of which are unfit for drinking purposes. It is hoped in the near future to supply the great majority with piped water derived from the Coventry Corporation's projected supply from the River Severn.

A Consultant's report on the general water supplies of the area is now being awaited.

Sewage Disposal.

Arrangements have been made for a survey to be carried out as a preliminary to establish works for the area as a whole, the Consultant's report is to be expected in the very near future.

Housing.

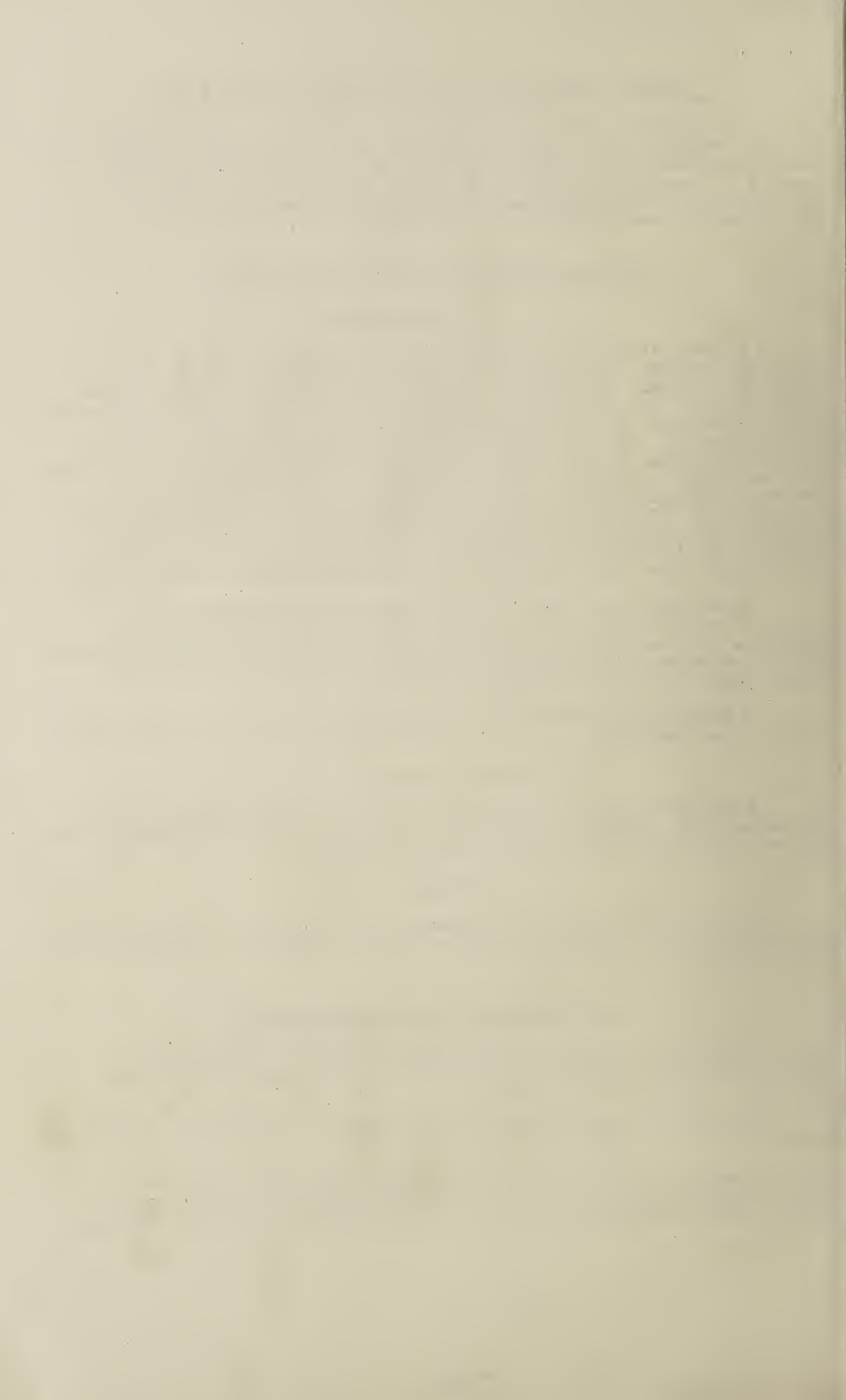
The Council's building programme for the first two years is to erect firstly 112 houses and a subsequent 90 dwellings. Several sites have already been approved.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Duties of the Food and Drugs Acts, 1928-38 are carried out by the Inspector of Weights and Measures. Sanitary Inspectors can also take samples under the Act.

All dairies are subject to supervision by the Sanitary Inspector, by whom they are visited periodically.

Slaughter houses have not been used since 1939, but in the future consideration will doubtless be given to the making of more satisfactory arrangements than those which prevailed prior to the war.



PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Notified Diseases (other than tuberculosis) during the year 1944.

<u>Disease.</u>	<u>Total cases notified.</u>	<u>Admitted to hospital.</u>	<u>Total Deaths.</u>
Scarlet Fever.	11	6	-
Diphtheria.	18	18	1
Para-typhoid fever.	1	1	-
Puerperal Pyrexia.	2	1	-
Pneumonia.	1	-	-
Dysentery.	3	-	-
Measles.	35	-	-
Whooping Cough.	17	-	-
Erysipelas.	3	-	-
Smallpox.	-	-	-
Typhoid.	-	-	-
Cerebro-Spinal fever.	1	1	-
Opthalmia Neonatorum.	-	-	-

ANALYSIS OF TOTAL NOTIFIED INFECTIOUS DISEASES CASES
(OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS DURING THE YEAR 1944.)

<u>AGE GROUPS.</u>	<u>Scarlet Fever.</u>	<u>Diphtheria.</u>	<u>Para-typhoid fever.</u>	<u>Puerperal Pyrexia.</u>	<u>Pneumonia.</u>	<u>Dysentery.</u>	<u>Measles.</u>	<u>Whooping Cough.</u>	<u>Cerebro-spinal fever.</u>	<u>Erysipelas.</u>
Under 1 year.	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	1
1 - 2 years.	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	1
3 - 4 "	1	3	1	1	1	1	4	1	1	1
5 - 10 "	6	9	1	1	1	1	12	6	1	1
11 - 15 "	1	1	1	1	1	1	12	1	1	1
16 - 20 "	3	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
21 - 35 "	1	3	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1
36 - 45 "	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	1
46 - 65 "	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2
66 and over.	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
TOTALS.	11	18	1	2	1	3	35	17	1	3

SCARLET FEVER.

Six of the eleven notified were nursed at home - at the practitioner's discretion, where there was no risk to the public health. There were no deaths.

WHOOPIING COUGH & MEASLES.

These diseases have been prevalent during the autumn, mainly affecting school-children. There were no deaths from either disease.

DIPHTHERIA.

One death occurred in an un-immunised child aged 2 years. Ten of the eighteen cases were furnished by two families. One case had been immunised previously, the attack being of a mild nature. The importance of protection is thus emphasised as all except one of the family cases had not been immunised.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

The table below shows the figures of children protected during the year and also the total figures from the inception of this measure.

	<u>Nos. Imm.</u> <u>0 - 4.</u> <u>inclusive.</u>	<u>Nos. Imm.</u> <u>5 - 14.</u> <u>inclusive.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
<u>1944.</u>	140.	45.	185.
<u>1940 - 1944.</u> <u>inclusive.</u>	980.	1,983.	2,963.
<u>Total %</u> <u>immunised.</u>	75%.	82%.	average. 78%.

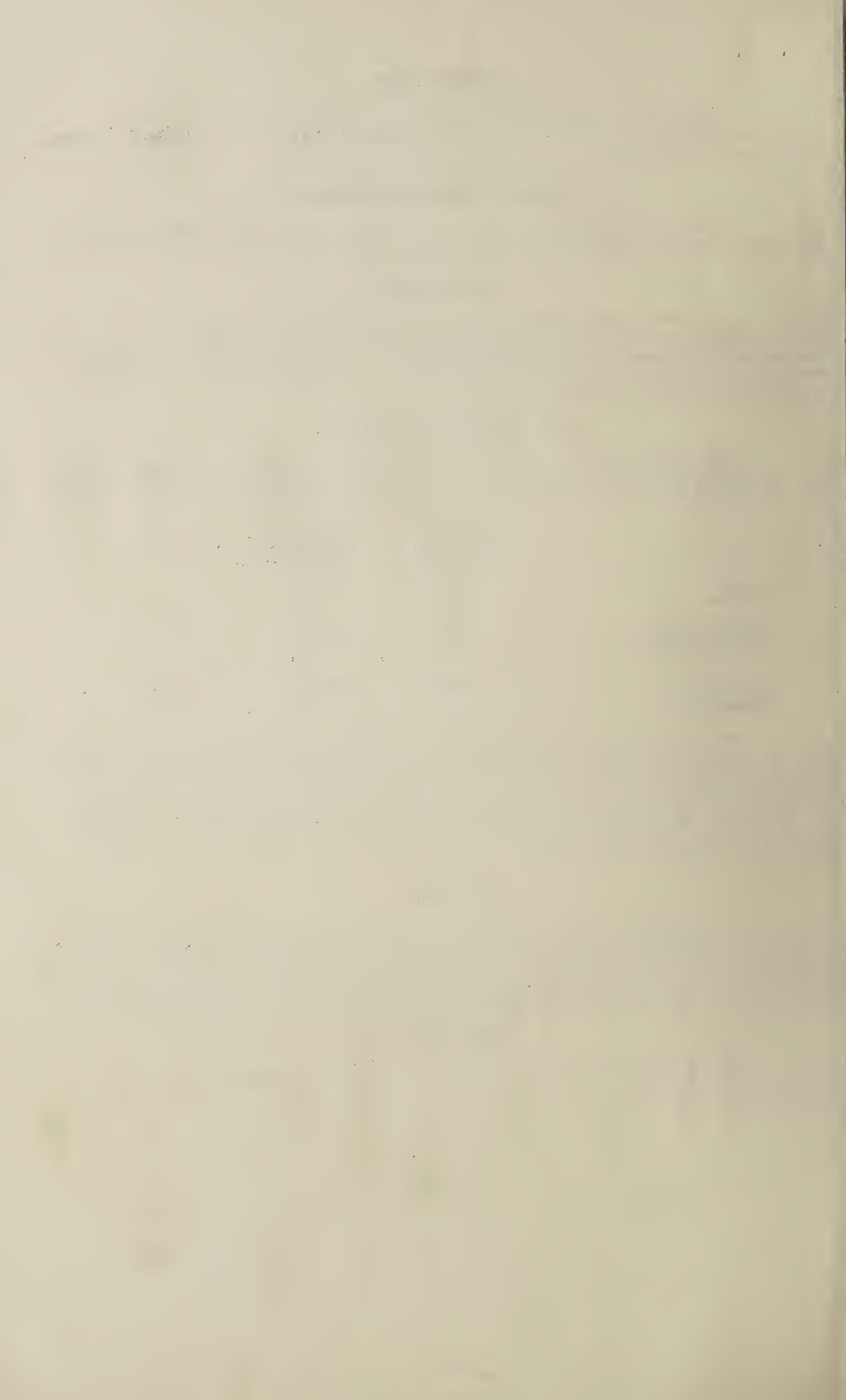
These estimates are based on official child population figures, and do not include the numbers of children immunised privately as these are difficult to assess, but if a conservative figure is allowed for this, it would mean that approximately 80 - 85% of the total children in this area have been protected - a very gratifying result. Credit is due to the principals of Schools and to the local District Nurses for their interest and help.

SCABIES.

An arrangement was made with the County Council whereby cases could be admitted to their Institution at a flat rate per case irrespective of the length of stay. 12 cases were treated under this scheme. The incidence on the whole has diminished during the year, but it is known that a considerable number of cases have been treated privately.

SCHOOLS.

It was not necessary to close any Schools during the year for infectious diseases.



TUBERCULOSIS.

The following table gives below particulars of the notifications (19), and of all deaths from the disease in this area during 1944.

Age Periods.	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year.	1	1	2	1	1	1	2	1
1 - 4 years.	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
5 - 14 "	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1
15 - 24 "	2	3	1	1	1	1	1	1
25 - 34 "	1	4	1	1	1	1	1	1
35 - 44 "	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	1
45 - 54 "	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
55 - 64 "	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
65 and over.	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
TOTALS.	4	9	5	1	5	3	2	1

Number of Deaths from non-notified Tuberculosis. Nil.

Total number of Tuberculosis Deaths. 11.

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